GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:391
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2016
Cancellation of Flights due to Fog
Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Jayavardhan Dr. Jayakumar;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of flights both domestic as well as international have been cancelled due to dense fog during the current winter season and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the losses incurred by various airlines as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made it mandatory for all the airports to install CAT-IIIB instrument landing system for low visibility conditions;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the airports which have installed this system including those which are yet to install it; and

(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to obviate/ minimize problems faced by various airlines in taking-off and landing during dense fog conditions?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) As per information provided to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), the number of domestic flights cancelled due to weather at Delhi during the period 15/12/2015 to 15/02/2016 is as follows:;

Airline Departures Arrival
Indigo 05 02
Jet Airways 04 01
Air India 06 01
Go Air 01 NiL
Spice Jet 01 NIL
Vistara 01 NIL
Total 18 04
There was no cancellation of International flights.;
(b) Losses incurred by the airlines on account of flight cancellation due to fog are not required to be submitted to the DGCA as per the prevailing regulations.;

(c) to (d) Government has not made it mandatory for the airports to install CAT-IIIB system. However, ILS CAT-IIIB has been installed at Delhi Airport and it is under installation at Amritsar, Lucknow, Jaipur and Kolkata Airports.;

(e) A Technical Committee to conduct study on low visibility operations at IGI Airport, Delhi was set up by DGCA on 09.01.2014. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, following decisions have been taken by DGCA for compliance by airlines: (i) All airlines to ensure that aircraft deployed to/from Delhi during low visibility conditions are CAT−III complaint and both the commander and co-pilot are also CAT-III trained.; (ii)Only CAT-III flight crew to operate the flights to/from Delhi in case weather predictions of CAT−III conditions are made by India Meteorological Department (IMD). Failing to do so, such operations of the defaulting airline will be stopped to/from Delhi during low visibility
conditions.;

(iii) Airlines must take adequate care of providing basic amenities of water and refreshment to passengers during such conditions if the flights are delayed.

(iv) All stakeholders should have better communication procedure so that level of interaction with passengers increases during the fog and they are aware of flight delays.

(v) One representative each from DGCA and IMD will be positioned at Airport Operation Control Centre (AOCC), DIAL who will interact with airlines, Airports Authority of India (AAI) and DIAL. DIAL will organise conference on daily basis wherein fog forecast for the day and next day will be provided by IMD. Further, in order to minimize the inconvenience to traveling passengers and to ensure safety of operations during Low Visibility period, DGCA vide letter No. 23-05/2010-AED dated 02/12/2014 issued instructions to all scheduled domestic airlines as well as airport operators for immediate compliance which were reissued on 16-09.2015.;

Also, Collaborative Decision Making (CMD) process is followed at airports during fog period which helps in regulating the landing and takeoffs of airlines, avoiding delays and saving of fuel as per the permissible conditions for aircraft operations.